

# Latvian language

**Latvian** (*latviešu valoda* [ˈlatvʲɛʃu ˈvaluɔda]), also known as **Lettish**, is an Eastern Baltic language spoken in the Baltic region. It is the language of Latvians and the official language of Latvia as well as one of the official languages of the European Union. There are about 1.3 million native Latvian speakers in Latvia and 100,000 abroad. Altogether, 2 million, or 80% of the population of Latvia, speak Latvian.<sup>[4]</sup> Of those, around 1.16 million or 62% used it as their primary language at home.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

As a Baltic language, Latvian is most closely related to neighboring Lithuanian, however Latvian has followed a more rapid development.<sup>[7]</sup> In addition, there is some disagreement whether Latgalian and Kursenieki, which are mutually intelligible with Latvian, should be considered varieties or separate languages.<sup>[8]</sup>

Latvian first appeared in Western print in the mid-16th century with the reproduction of the Lord's Prayer in Latvian in Sebastian Münster's *Cosmographia Universalis* (1544), in Latin script.

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## Classification

Latvian	
Lettish <sup>[1]</sup>	
<span></span> <div><i>latviešu valoda</i></div>	
Pronunciation	<span>[ˈlatvʲɛʃu<span> </span>ˈvaluɔda]</span>
Native <span> </span> to	Latvia
Region	Baltic
Ethnicity	Latvians
<div>Native speakers</div>	1.75 million <span> </span> (2015) <sup>[2]</sup>
<div><span>Language family</span></div>	<div>Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Balto-Slavic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Baltic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Baltic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Latvian</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
<div><span>Writing system</span></div>	Latin (Latvian alphabet) <p>Latvian Braille</p>
Official status	
<div>Official language<span> </span>in</div>	<div> <div><span><span> </span></span><span> </span>Latvia</div> <div><span><span> </span></span><span> </span>European Union</div> </div>
Language codes	
<span>ISO 639-1</span>	lv ( <span>https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=lv</span> )
<span>ISO 639-2</span>	lav ( <span>https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=258</span> )
<span>ISO 639-3</span>	lav – inclusive code <div> <div>Individual codes:</div> <div> <div>lvs – Standard Latvian language</div> <div>ltg – Latgalian language</div> </div> </div>
Glottolog	latv1249 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/linguoid/id/latv1249</span> ) <sup>[3]</sup>
Linguasphere	54-AAB-a

Latvian belongs to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European language family. It is one of two living Baltic languages with an official status (the other being Lithuanian). The Latvian and Lithuanian languages have retained many features of the nominal morphology of the proto-language, though, in matters of phonology and verbal morphology, they show many innovations, with Latvian being considerably more innovative than Lithuanian.

## History

According to some glottochronological speculations, the Eastern Baltic languages split from Western Baltic (or, perhaps, from the hypothetical proto-Baltic language) between 400 and 600 CE.<sup>[9]</sup> The differentiation between Lithuanian and Latvian started after 800 CE, with a long period of being one language but different dialects. At a minimum, transitional dialects existed until the 14th century or 15th century, and perhaps as late as the 17th century.<sup>[10]</sup>

Latvian as a distinct language emerged over several centuries from the language spoken by the ancient Latgalian tribe assimilating the languages of other neighbouring Baltic tribes—Curonian, Semigallian and Selonian— which resulted in these languages gradually losing their most distinct characteristics. This process of consolidation started in the 13th century after the Livonian Crusade and forced Christianization. These tribes came under Livonian rule thus forming a unified political, economic and religious space.<sup>[11]</sup>

The oldest known examples of written Latvian are from a 1530 translation of a hymn made by Nikolaus Ramm, a German pastor in Riga.<sup>[12]</sup> The oldest preserved book in Latvian is a 1585 Catholic catechism of Petrus Canisius currently located at the Uppsala University Library.<sup>[13]</sup>

The first one to translate the Bible into Latvian was the German Lutheran pastor Johann Ernst Glück<sup>[14]</sup> (The New Testament in 1685 and The Old Testament in 1691). The Lutheran pastor Gottard Friedrich Stender was a founder of the Latvian secular literature. He wrote the first illustrated Latvian alphabet book (1787) and the first encyclopedia “The Book of High Wisdom of the World and Nature” (*Augstas gudrības grāmata no pasaules un dabas*; 1774), the Grammar books and the Latvian-German and German-Latvian dictionaries.

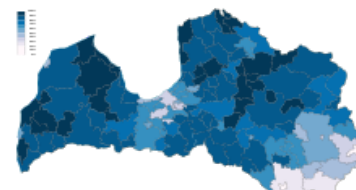
Until the 19th century, the Latvian written language was influenced by German Lutheran pastors and the German language, because the upper class of local society was formed by Baltic Germans.<sup>[7]</sup> In the middle of the 19th century the First Latvian National Awakening was started, led by “Young Latvians” who popularized the use of Latvian language. Participants in this movement laid the foundations for standard Latvian and also popularized the Latvianization of loan words. However, in the 1880s, when Czar Alexander III came into power, Russification started. During this period, some Latvian scholars suggested adopting Cyrillic for use in Latvian.

According to the 1897 Imperial Russian Census, there were 505,994 (75.1%) speakers of Latvian in the Governorate of Courland<sup>[15]</sup> and 563,829 (43.4%) speakers of Latvian in the Governorate of Livonia, making Latvian-speakers the largest linguistic group in each of the governorates.<sup>[16]</sup>

After the czar's death, around the start of the 20th century, nationalist movements re-emerged. In 1908, Latvian linguists Kārlis Milenbahs and Jānis Endzelīns elaborated the modern Latvian alphabet, which slowly replaced the old orthography used before. Another feature of the language, in common with its sister language Lithuanian, that was developed at that time is that proper names from other countries and languages are altered phonetically to fit the phonological system of Latvian. Even if the original language also uses the Latin alphabet, this process takes place. Moreover, the names are modified to ensure that they have noun declension endings, declining like all other nouns. For example, a place such as Lecropt (a Scottish parish) is likely to become Lekropta; the Scottish village of Tillicoultry becomes Tilikutrija.

During the Soviet occupation (1940–1991), the policy of Russification greatly affected the Latvian language. Throughout this period, many Latvians and Latvia's other ethnicities faced deportation and persecution. Massive immigration from the Soviet republics of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and others followed, largely as a result of Stalin's plan to integrate Latvia and the other Baltic republics into the Soviet Union by means of Russian colonization. As a result, the proportion of the ethnic Latvian population within the total population was reduced from 80% in 1935 to 52% in 1989. In Soviet Latvia, most of the immigrants who settled in the country did not learn Latvian. According to the 2011 census Latvian was the language spoken at home by 62% of the country's population.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

After the re-establishment of independence in 1991, a new policy of language education was introduced. The primary declared goal was the integration of all inhabitants into the environment of the official state language while protecting the languages of Latvia's ethnic minorities.<sup>[17]</sup>



Use of Latvian as the primary language at home in 2011 by municipalities of Latvia



Distribution of the Baltic tribes, circa 1200 (boundaries are approximate).



In 1649 settlement of the Latvian speaking Kursenieki spanned from Memel (Klaipėda) to Danzig (Gdańsk).

Government-funded bilingual education was available in primary schools for ethnic minorities until 2019 when Parliament decided on educating only in Latvian. Minority schools are available for Russian, Yiddish, Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Estonian and Roma schools. Latvian is taught as a second language in the initial stages too, as is officially declared, to encourage proficiency in that language, aiming at avoiding alienation from the Latvian-speaking linguistic majority and for the sake of facilitating academic and professional achievements. Since the mid-1990s, the government may pay a student's tuition in public universities only provided that the instruction is in Latvian. Since 2004, the state mandates Latvian as the language of instruction in public secondary schools (Form 10–12) for at least 60% of class work (previously, a broad system of education in Russian existed).<sup>[18]</sup>

The Official Language Law was adopted on 9 December 1999.<sup>[19]</sup> Several regulatory acts associated with this law have been adopted. Observance of the law is monitored by the State Language Centre run by the Ministry of Justice.

To counter the influence of Russian and English, government organizations (namely the Terminology Commission of the Latvian Academy of Science and the State Language Center) popularize the use of Latvian terms. A debate arose over the Latvian term for euro. The Terminology Commission suggested *eira* or *eirs*, with their Latvianized and declinable ending, would be a better term for euro than the widely used *eiro*, while European Central Bank insisted that the original name *euro* is used.<sup>[20]</sup> New terms are Latvian derivatives, calques or new loanwords. For example, Latvian has two words for "telephone" – *tālrunis* and *telefons*, the former being a direct translation into Latvian of the latter international term. Still, others are older or more euphonic loanwords rather than Latvian words. For example, "computer" can be either *dators*, *kompjūters*. Both are loanwords. The native Latvian word for "computer" is *skaitļotājs*, which is also an official term. However, now *dators* has been considered an appropriate translation, *skaitļotājs* is also used.

There are several contests held annually to promote the correct use of Latvian. One of them is "Word of the year" (*Gada vārds*) organized by the Riga Latvian Society since 2003.<sup>[21]</sup> It features categories such as the "Best word", "Worst word", "Best saying" and "Word salad". In 2018 the word *zibmaksājums* (instant payment) won the category of "Best word" and *influenceris* (influencer) won the category of "Worst word".<sup>[22]</sup> The word pair of *straumēt* (stream) and *straumēšana* (streaming) were named the best words of 2017, while *transporti* as an unnecessary plural of the name for transport was chosen as the worst word of 2017.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Dialects

There are three dialects in Latvian: the Livonian dialect, High Latvian and the Middle dialect. Latvian dialects and their varieties should not be confused with the Livonian, Curonian, Semigallian and Selonian languages.

### Livonian dialect

The Livonian dialect of Latvian was more affected by the Livonian language substratum than Latvian in other parts of Latvia. It is divided into the Vidzeme variety and the Courland variety (also called *tāmnieku*). There are two syllable intonations in the Livonian dialect, extended and broken. In the Livonian dialect, short vowels in the endings of words are discarded, while long vowels are shortened. In all genders and numbers, only one form of the verb is used. Personal names in both genders are derived with endings – els, -ans. In prefixes *ie* is changed to *e*. Due to migration and the introduction of a standardised language this dialect has declined. It arose from assimilated Livonians, who started to speak in Latvian and assimilated Livonian grammar into Latvian.



### Middle dialect

The Middle dialect spoken in central and Southwestern Latvia is the basis of standard Latvian. The dialect is divided into the Vidzeme variety, the Curonian variety and the Semigallian variety. The Vidzeme variety and the Semigallian variety are closer to each other than to the Curonian variety, which is more archaic than the other two. There are three syllable intonations in some parts of Vidzeme variety of the Middle dialect, extended, broken and falling. The Curonian and Semigallian varieties have two syllable intonations, extended and broken, but some parts of the Vidzeme variety has extended and falling intonations. In the Curonian variety, *r* is still used. The Kursenieki language, which used to be spoken along Curonian Spit, is closely related to the varieties of the Middle dialect spoken in Courland.

### Upper Latvian dialect

Map showing geographical distribution of the dialects in Latvia. Varieties of the Livonian dialect (*Libiskais dialekts*) are in blue, the Middle dialect (*Vidus dialekts*) in green, the Upper dialect (*Augšzemnieku dialekts*) in yellow.

Upper Latvian dialect is spoken in Eastern Latvia. It is set apart from the rest of the Latvian by a number of phonetic differences. The dialect has two main varieties – Selonian (two syllable intonations, falling and rising) and Non-Selonian (falling and broken syllable intonations). There is a standard language, the Latgalian language, which is based on deep non-Selonian varieties spoken in the south of Latgale. The term "Latgalian" is sometimes also applied to all non-Selonian varieties or even the whole dialect. However, it is unclear if it is accurate to use the term for any varieties besides the standard language. While the term may refer to varieties spoken in Latgale or by Latgalians, not all speakers identify as speaking Latgalian, for example, speakers of deep Non-Selonian varieties in Vidzeme explicitly deny speaking Latgalian.<sup>[24]</sup>

## Non-native speakers

The history of the Latvian language (see below) has placed it in a peculiar position for a language of its size whereby it is spoken by a large number of non-native speakers as compared to native speakers. The immigrant and minority population in Latvia is 700,000 people: Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles, and others. The majority of immigrants came to Latvia between 1940 and 1991; supplementing pre-existing ethnic minority communities (Latvian Germans, Latvian Jews). The trends show that the proficiency of Latvian among its non-native speakers is gradually increasing. In a 2009 survey by Latvian Language Agency 56% percent of respondents with Russian as their native language described having a good knowledge of Latvian, whereas for the younger generation (from 17 to 25 years) the number was 64%.<sup>[25]</sup>

The increased adoption of Latvian by minorities was brought about by its status as the only official language of the country and other changes in the society after the fall of the Soviet Union that mostly shifted linguistic focus away from Russian. As an example, in 2007, universities and colleges for the first time received applications from prospective students who had a bilingual secondary education in schools for minorities. Fluency in Latvian is expected in a variety of professions and careers.

## Grammar

Latvian is an inflectional language with some analytical forms. Primary word stress, with a few exceptions, is on the first syllable. There are no articles in Latvian; however, definiteness is expressed by an inflection of adjectives. Basic word order in Latvian is subject–verb–object; however, word order is relatively free.

### Nouns

There are two grammatical genders in Latvian (masculine and feminine) and two numbers, singular and plural. Nouns and adjectives decline into seven cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, locative, and vocative. There are six declensions and no articles.

### Verbs

There are three conjugation classes in Latvian. Verbs are conjugated for person, tense, mood and voice.

## Orthography

Latvian in Latin script was first based upon the German alphabet, while the alphabet of the Latgalian dialect was based on the Polish alphabet. At the beginning of the 20th century, this was replaced by a more phonetically appropriate alphabet.

### Standard orthography

Today, the Latvian standard alphabet consists of 33 letters:

Majuscule forms (also called <b>uppercase</b> or <b>capital letters</b> )																																
A	Ā	B	C	Č	D	E	Ē	F	G	Ģ	H	I	Ī	J	K	Ķ	L	Ļ	M	N	Ņ	O	P	R	S	Š	T	U	Ū	V	Z	Ž
Minuscule forms (also called <b>lowercase</b> or <b>small letters</b> )																																
a	ā	b	c	č	d	e	ē	f	g	ģ	h	i	ī	j	k	ķ	l	ļ	m	n	ņ	o	p	r	s	š	t	u	ū	v	z	ž

The modern standard Latvian alphabet uses 22 unmodified letters of the Latin alphabet (all except *Q*, *W*, *X* and *Y*). It adds a further eleven letters by modification. The vowel letters *A*, *E*, *I* and *U* can take a macron to show length, unmodified letters being short; these letters are not differentiated while sorting (e.g. in dictionaries). The letters *C*, *S* and *Z*, that in unmodified form are pronounced [ts], [s] and [z] respectively, can be marked with a caron. These marked letters, Č, Š and Ž are pronounced [tʃ], [ʃ] and [ʒ] respectively. The

letters *Ģ*, *K*, *Ļ* and *Ņ* are written with a cedilla or little 'comma' placed below (or above the lowercase *g*). They are modified (palatalized) versions of *G*, *K*, *L* and *N* and represent the sounds [j], [c], [ʃ] and [ɲ]. Non-standard varieties of Latvian add extra letters to this standard set.

Latvian spelling has almost perfect correspondence between graphemes and phonemes. Every phoneme has its letter so that a reader doesn't need to learn how a word is pronounced and a writer doesn't need to learn how a word is written. There are only two exceptions to this, which could cause mispronunciation. The first problem is that the letters *E/Ē* represent two different sounds: [ɛ]/[ɛː] and [æ]/[æː]. The second problem is that letter *O* indicates both the short and long [ɔ], and the diphthong [uɔ]. These three sounds are written as *O*, *Ō* and *Uo* in Latgalian, and some Latvians campaign for the adoption of this system in standard Latvian. However, the majority of Latvian linguists argue that *o* and *ō* are found only in loanwords, with the *Uo* sound being the only native Latvian phoneme. The digraph *Uo* was discarded in 1914, and the letter *Ō* has not been used in the official Latvian language since 1946. Likewise, the letters *Ķ* and *Ch* were discarded in 1957, although they are still used in some varieties and by many Latvians living beyond the borders of Latvia. The letter *Y* is used only in the standard Latgalian written language, where it is used to represent /ɨ/, which is not used in other dialects. Latvian orthography allows nine digraphs, which are written *Ai*, *Au*, *Ei*, *Ie*, *Iu*, *Ui*, *Oi*, *Dz* and *Dž*.

## Old orthography

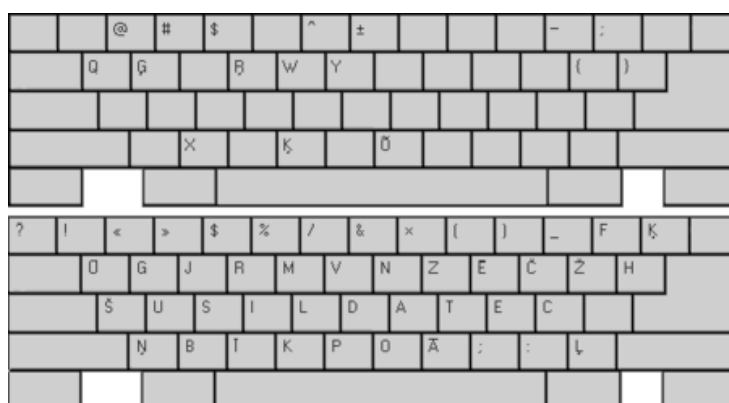
The old orthography was based on that of German and did not represent the Latvian language phonemically. At the beginning, it was used to write religious texts for German priests to help them in their work with Latvians. The first writings in Latvian were chaotic: there were twelve variations of writing Š. In 1631 the German priest Georg Mancelius tried to systematize the writing. He wrote long vowels according to their position in the word – a short vowel followed by *h* for a radical vowel, a short vowel in the suffix and vowel with a diacritic mark in the ending indicating two accents. Consonants were written following the example of German with multiple letters. The old orthography was used until the 20th century when it was slowly replaced by the modern orthography.



Latvian Lutheran hymnbook in old orthography.

## Latvian on computers

In late 1992 the official Latvian computing standard LVS 8-92 took effect. It was followed by LVS 24-93 (Latvian language support for computers) that also specified the way Latvian language (alphabet, numbers, currency, punctuation marks, date and time) should be represented on computers. A Latvian ergonomic keyboard standard LVS 23-93 was also announced several months later, but it didn't gain popularity due to its need for a custom-built keyboard.<sup>[26]</sup>



The rarely used Latvian ergonomic keyboard layout

Nowadays standard QWERTY or the US keyboards are used for writing in Latvian; diacritics are entered by using a dead key (usually ' , occasionally ~).<sup>[26]</sup> Some keyboard layouts use the modifier key AltGr (most notably the Windows 2000 and XP built-in layout (Latvian QWERTY), it is also default modifier in X11R6, thus a default in most Linux distributions).

In the 1990s, lack of software support of diacritics caused an unofficial style of orthography, often called *translīts*, to emerge for use in situations when the user is unable to access Latvian diacritic marks (e-mail, newsgroups, web user forums, chat, SMS etc.). It uses the basic Modern Latin alphabet only, and letters that are not used in standard orthography are usually omitted. In this style, diacritics are replaced by digraphs – a doubled letter indicates a long vowel (as in Finnish and Estonian); a following *j* indicates palatalisation of consonants, i.e., a cedilla; and the postalveolars *Š*, *Č* and *Ž* are written with *h* replacing the *hāček*, as in English. Sometimes the second letter, the one used instead of a diacritic, is changed to one of two other diacritic letters (e.g. *š* is written as *ss* or *sj*, not *sh*), and since many people may find it difficult to use these unusual methods, they write without any indication of missing diacritic marks, or they use digraphing only if the diacritic mark in question would make a semantic difference.<sup>[27]</sup> Sometimes an apostrophe is used before or after the character that would properly need to be diacriticised. Also, digraph diacritics are often used and sometimes even mixed with diacritical letters of standard orthography. Although today there is software support available, diacritic-less writing is still sometimes used for financial and social reasons. As *š* and *ž* are part of the Windows-1252 coding, it is possible to input those two letters using a numerical keypad. Latvian language code for cmd and .bat files - 1257

## Comparative orthography

For example, the Lord's Prayer in Latvian written in different styles:

First orthography (Cosmographia Universalis, 1544)	Old orthography, 1739 <sup>[28]</sup>	Modern orthography	Internet-style
Muufze Thews exkan tho Debbes	Muhfu Tehvs debbefis	Mūsu tēvs debesīs	Muusu teevs debesiis
Sweetytz thope totws waerdtcz	Swehtits lai top taws wahrds	Svētīts lai top tavs vārds	Sveetiits lai top tavs vaards
Enaka mums touwe walfibe.	Lai nahk tawa walfiba	Lai nāk tava valstība	Lai naak tava valstiiba
Tows praetcz notefe	Taws prahts lai noteek	Tavs prāts lai notiek	Tavs praats lai notiek
ka exkan Debbes tha arridtczan wuerflon lemnes	kà debbefis tà arirdfan zemes wirsû	kā debesīs, tā arī virs zemes	kaa debesiis taa arii virs zemes
Mufze benifke mayfe bobe mums fdjoben.	Muhsu deenifchtu maizi dod mums fchodeen	Mūsu dienišķo maizi dod mums šodien	Muusu dienishkjo maizi dod mums shodien
Vnbe pammet mums mufte parrabe	Un pametti mums muhfū parradus [later parahdus]	Un piedod mums mūsu parādus	Un piedod mums muusu paraadus
ka mehs pammettam muffims parabenekims	kà arri mehs pamettam faweem parrahdneekeem	kā arī mēs piedodam saviem parādniekiem	kaa arii mees piedodam saviem paraadniekiem
Vnbe nhe wedde mums exkan kaerbenafchenne	Un ne eeweddi muhs eekfch kahr dinafchanas	Un neieved mūs kārdināšanā	Un neieved muus kaardinaashanaa
Seth atpelfhmums no to loune	bet atpelfti muhs no ta launa [later launa]	bet atpestī mūs no ļauna	bet atpestii muus no ljauna
Aefto thouwa gir ta walfibe	Jo tew peederr ta walfiba	Jo tev pieder valstība	Jo tev pieder valstiiba.
vnbe tas fpez vnb tas Goobtcz tur muffige	un tas fpehks un tas gods muhfchigi [later muhzigi]	spēks un gods mūžīgi	speeks un gods muuzhiigi
Amen	Amen	Āmen	Aamen

Phonology

Consonants

	Labial	Dental/Alveolar	Post-alveolar/Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	[ŋ]
Stop	p b	t d	c ɟ	k g
Affricate		ʈs ɖʒ	ʈʃ ɖʒ̥	
Fricative	(f) v	s z	ʃ ʒ	(x)
Central approximant/Trill		r	j	
Lateral approximant		l	ʎ	

Consonants in consonant sequences assimilate to the voicing the next-standing consonant, e.g. **ap**gabals [ ' **ab**gabals] or **la**bs [ ' **l**aps]. Latvian does not feature final-obstruent devoicing.

Consonants can be long (written as double consonants) *ma*mma [ ' mam : a], or short. Plosives and fricatives occurring between two short vowels are lengthened: *u*pe [ ' up : e]. Same with 'zs' that is pronounced as /s : /, šs and žs as /ʃ : /.

Vowels

Latvian has six vowels, with length as distinctive feature:

Latvian vowels						
	Front		Central		Back	
	short	long	short	long	short	long
Close	i	i :			u	u :
Mid	e	e :			(ɔ)	(ɔ :)
Open	æ	æ :	a	a :		

/ɔ ɔ ɪ/, and the diphthongs involving it other than /uɔ/, are confined to loanwords.

Latvian also has 10 diphthongs, four of which are only found in loanwords (/ai ui ɛi au iɛ uɔ iu (ɔi) ɛu (ɔu)/), although some diphthongs are mostly limited to proper names and interjections.

## Pitch accent

Standard Latvian and, with a few minor exceptions, all of the Latvian dialects have fixed initial stress. Long vowels and diphthongs have a tone, regardless of their position in the word. This includes the so-called "mixed diphthongs", composed of a short vowel followed by a sonorant.

## Loanwords

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During the period of Livonia many Middle Low German words such as *amats* (profession), *dambis* (dam), *būvēt* (to build) and *bikses* (trousers) were borrowed into Latvian, while the period of Swedish Livonia brought loanwords like *skurstenis* (chimney) from Swedish.<sup>[29]</sup>

Loanwords from other Baltic language include *ķermenis* (body) from Old Prussian, as well as *veikals* (store) and *paģiras* (hangover) from Lithuanian.<sup>[29]</sup>

## History of the study

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The first Latvian dictionary *Lettus* compiled by Georg Mancelius was published in 1638.<sup>[30]</sup>

The first grammar of the Latvian language is a short “Manual on the Latvian language” (Latin: *Manuductio ad linguam lettonicam*) by lv:Johans Georgs Rehehūzens, published in 1644 in Riga.<sup>[31]</sup>

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- Prande, *Latviešu Rakstniecība Portrejās* (Rīga, 1923)

## See also

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- List of Latvian words borrowed from Old East Slavic

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## External links

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- On line TV in Latvian (<http://ltv.lsm.lv/lv/>)
- Official Language Law in English (<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/14740-official-language-law>)
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- National Agency for Latvian Language Training (<http://www.lvavp.lv/>)
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